

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shape value of a pattern having a pivotal characteristic is measured (step S1), an exposure energy variation is detected from the measured value, a first data base is accessed using a result of the measurement of the shape value (Step S2), an exposure energy is calculated (Step S3), a shape value of an isolated pattern is measured (Step S4), a second data base is accessed using a result of the measurement (Step S5), and a focal variation is determined using the calculated proper exposure energy (Step S6).